2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

Rachel Chidsey - Precinct 3

January 1, 2026 . 3:00 AM — 2 min read

Preferred contact method: (did not answer)

What experiences and perspectives would you contribute to Town Meeting?
I have lived in Winchester for almost 4 years with my husband and two boys - both in the public school system at Lincoln. I grew up in New Hampshire and always knew I'd like to move closer to family after having children. We were attracted to Winchester for its schools, community, down-town area and easy access to Boston. I was ready to leave NYC, but not ready to give up walking to get a coffee and catch a train! We have had such a great experience so far with members of the community and at Lincoln.

Looking to be an active member of the community, I dove into volunteering. I've led Lincoln Elementary's Green Team since 2022 with a fellow parent, and joined the Town's Climate Action Advisory committee the following fall of 2023. I also currently serve on the Children, Youth, and Families Formation Committee at the First Congregational Church in town.

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What are two or three issues facing Winchester that you think are most important and what are your positions on them?

Having two elementary aged children, I am highly engaged in our public school system. I believe it is imperative that Winchester continue to invest in our schools, ensuring our children receive a consistent education no matter which school they attend and are set up for success. Our schools are a key part of our community, if you have kids in the system or not. The Town's aging infrastructure is an issue that needs to be addressed, and I will be supporting the override in this effort among others. I also have a passion for environmental stewardship and will support our Town's implementation of its Climate Action Plan to better protect and prepare our Town as the climate changes.

What is a special challenge in your precinct that might not be faced in other precincts?

Precinct 3 is unique in that we cover the downtown area. Many of us enjoy walking or biking to town, school, the library and other places on a daily basis. Having safe routes to walk and bike is important in Winchester and I will support efforts to improve these for the benefit of all residents.

Why should voters elect you to represent them?

This is my first time running for Town Meeting, and I am running to represent young families like mine, specifically supporting our schools from elementary through WHS. I will also represent Precinct 3 residents who support investing in our Town's infrastructure and resilience. I am thoughtful in my decision making and will take any opportunity to speak to Precinct 3 residents to gain their thoughts, concerns and feedback to ensure everyone is heard at Town Meeting. I think Winchester is a remarkable town, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute in this way to our community.

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Return to Town Meeting Candidate list.

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He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

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2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

13 YEARS OF DATA, ONE SATURDAY: Takeaways from Winchester's override vote and the races that surrounded it

Winchester News reviewed precinct-level election results from every annual town election since 2014 — 13 years of data covering turnout, ballot questions, Select Board races, School Committee contests and Planning Board results — and compared them against the March 21 preliminary numbers. The 2026 results have not yet been certified by Town

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NEWS

With override rejected, Winchester shifts from campaigning to budget planning

After Winchester voters rejected an $11.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override on Election Day, March 21, the governing question in town has shifted from persuasion to arithmetic. Select Board member Bill McGonigle, who served on the Yes for Winchester campaign, said the defeat has changed how he approaches

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NEWS

Voters fill Town Meeting seats across Winchester; four incumbents unseated

The biggest shakeup came in Precinct 7, where two officeholders lost in an 11-person contest, matching Precinct 4 for the busiest race.

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Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

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March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz Jam Session

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

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